February 12, 2018

To: All Graduate and Professional Students
Subject: Update about Election for Graduate Student Representation

You are probably aware that, this semester, there will be an election to determine whether eligible graduate and professional students will choose to be represented by GET-UP, a union affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Four weeks ago, we proposed election dates and locations to the AFT, but we are still awaiting their agreement. Our goal is to provide voting locations that are convenient and accessible to all students in the voting unit. Any graduate student in Annenberg, SAS, BGS, Design, GSE, SEAS, Nursing, SP2, or Wharton who is providing instructional services and/or performing research this term (Spring 2018) or who did so in the Spring, Summer, or Fall term of 2017 is eligible to vote. We will let you know as soon as we have confirmed dates and locations.

Since all graduate and professional students will be bound by the results of this election, it is essential that you are fully informed about the issues involved. We strongly encourage you, as students and scholars, to read; talk to your colleagues, friends, and professors; debate; and weigh both sides of this critical decision.

To help advance the process, the University has prepared a page of key facts about unionization and a page of answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

You can also learn more about our long history of increasing pay and benefits for graduate and professional students at our web pages on Graduate Student Support and Valuing Graduate Students at Penn.

Above all, please remember to make your voice heard and vote. As Penn alums ourselves, we are very proud of our student voices and remain dedicated to a collaborative campus that works to support and advance graduate student life.

Wendell Pritchett, Provost
Beth A. Winkelstein, Vice Provost for Education